cent indigenous car and it is as good as the best. But they are not allowing the Tata Automobiles to manufacture cars.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is not a car, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that Tatas are able to manufacture their vehicles without any import. They want to produce car. Why are you not permitting it? आप इसकी इजाजत क्यों नहीं दे रहें हैं ? अगर वे बिना इम्पोर्ट के कार बनाना चाहते हैं तो उनको इसकी इजाजत आप क्यों नहीं दे रहें है, वे यह पूछ रहें हैं ।

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Their application is pending before the Government.

SHRI SUKUMAL SEN: Sir, they want Jawahar Car Yojna during election. A car for everybody.

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : जवाहर कार योजना हम लोग चाहते हैं ।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I want Salve to be Chairman of that Yojna, because he has suggested indigenous car for Rs. 50,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He didn't say this.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I maintain that it is possible to produce a car at Rs. 50,000. Of course, I am not talking of the excise etc. The levy of excise, I submit, is very indiscriminate, but production of car at Rs. 50,000 with indigenous technology, I maintain, is possible.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Why not refer this matter to the CAG to find out whether this can be done?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: There are twentyone applications, including that of Tatas, pending before the Government for consideration for the manufacture of new cars.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, give preference to those who will not import.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are not allowing anybody to import.

About Mr. Salve's question of people's car at Rs. 50,000, he is the Chairman of the Finance Commission. If he advises the Finance Ministry to remove the excise duty, I can supply the car at Rs. 60,000.

Price preference to public sector undertakings

*184. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the guidelines issued by the Bureau of Public Enterprises, a price preference upto 10 per cent is allowed to the public sector undertakings as compared to the lowest bidder in official tender floated locally; and

(b) whether there has been a breach of this policy or change in Government stand in this regard; and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Sir, facts are otherwise. In the Government compilation itself, it has been shown that no price preference is being given and from public stctor company to public sector company also price preference is not being given as has been said by SAIL to EIL. The issue regarding price preference to public sector undertakings has been examined and it has been decided that no price preference need be given to public sector undertakings while evaluating their tender. In the light of these facts, Government compilation and the opinions of the public sector companies, what will be the factual reply of the Minister? Will...

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Ten per cent price preference we are still continuing.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: It is not continuing.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: That is there, Sir.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: No Government compilation on this price..

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot decide by your saying. But he is saying...

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: There is a rush for privatisation. That is a fact of today's life and the order book position of the public sector companies is causing a lot of anxiety. It is known also to the Government because BEL, BHEL, Jessops, HAC, BAC; MAMC are not getting orders. It is connected with this. Will the hon. Minister say what steps he will take to see that the order books of all these public sector companies are improved so that the public sector companies are able to work with full speed?

Further, will he assure that in the international competitive biddings the price preference of 15 per cent would be maintained as it is at present?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: He is questioning about the preference of 10 per cent allowed to the public sector companies. He is now asking about the order book position of various companies.

श्री सभापति : इनका कहना है कि 10 परसेंट मिलता तो फिर ये आर्डर खाली . . . (व्यवधान) . . . क्यों रहते ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is the duty of our department to see that public sector undertakings get more orders everywhere.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: That is not happening.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is going to do it.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Yes, we are doing. We are asking Mr. Vasant Sathe to give more orders to BHEL.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: The public sector is required to make heavy investments in its own sector. Will the hon. Minister increase it by another five per cent?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: No, Sir. This 10 per cent will continue.

BHEL programme to revive sick and old power plants

*185. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Corporate Research and Development Division of BHEL has launched a programme to give a new lease of life to the sick and old power plants in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the sick power plants in the country and how they are proposed to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The R & D Division of BHEL has launched a programme to assess the residual life of old thermal power plants, Based on the assessment, BHEL provides a proposal for extension of the life of the power plant.

(c) With a view to improving the performance of existing thermal power stations, a programme for renovation and modernisation was launched by the Central Electricity Authority all over the country in September 1984. 34 thermal power stations comprising 162 thermal units of varying ratings are covered by this programme.

Similarly, a scheme for renovation and uprating of 49 hydro power stations in the country has been formulated by the Central Electricity Authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.